

Page 21, line 16, delete "ley" and insert --by--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 14, line 4, change "turns" to --turning--.

REMARKS

A Petition Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.136(a) and the fee required by 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(3) are submitted herewith. The due date for response to the Official Action mailed October 4, 1999 is now April 4, 2000.

The specification has been amended to correct several spelling errors and to remove a redundancy. No new matter has been added. Also, a minor grammatical correction has been made to claim 14.

Claims 1-3 7, 9 11-16, 20, 22 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,756). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Independent claim 1 specifies:

"light source controlling means for controlling said plurality of light sources so that a particular light source of said plurality of light sources is turned on during a period on which no image sensing operation is performed by said image sensing means."

The significance of this is that a single one of the light sources is turned on during a period when no sensing operation is being performed. This allows the one light source to come up to potential and stabilize before it is used in the image sensing operation. Then, while the one light source is being used in an image sensing operation, the other light sources can be turned on and can come up to potential and stabilize before they are actually used for image sensing. Since the other light sources are not turned on when there is no image sensing operation, the amount of power needed for sensing is minimized and yet image sensing can begin immediately when a sensing operation is initiated.

Takahashi et al. do not disclose turning on a particular light source during a period in which no image sensing operation is performed by the image sensing means. Instead, all of the light sources of the Takahashi et al. device remain on at all times and their sequential use in image sensing is carried out by means of a rotary shielding plate. This requires a considerable amount of power and additional mechanical elements for the device.

The idea of applicants' claimed turning on of "a particular light source of said plurality of light sources" is neither shown in nor suggested by Takahashi et al. For

this reason, it is submitted that claims 1 patentably distinguishes over Takahashi et al. and is allowable.

Applicant's claim 14 specifies:

"turning on a predetermined light source of said plurality of light sources during a period in which no image sensing operation is performed".

As can be seen, this is a method counterpart to the above discussed distinguishing recitation of claim 1. As pointed out above, Takahashi et al. do not disclose turning on a particular light source. Instead, Takahashi et al. leave all their light sources on all the time. This, as mentioned above, causes significant power usage and it also requires significant mechanical apparatus. For these reasons, applicants' method claim 14 also patentably distinguishes over Takahashi et al. and is allowable.

The other cited references to Tani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,487) and Lim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,825) do not provide what is missing from Takahashi et al., namely the idea of turning on a particular light source during the period when no image sensing is carried out. As noted in the Official Action, Tani et al. turn on all the light sources at one time. Thus, Tani et al. do not turn on "a particular light source" as claimed by applicants. Although Lim et al. use sequential illumination by a

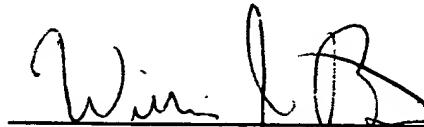
plurality of light sources, they do not give any indication of turning on a particular light source during a period in which no image sensing is carried out. Accordingly, claims 1 and 14 patentably distinguish over each of Takahashi et al. Tani et al. and Lim et al. considered both individually and in combination.

Each of claims 2-13 and 15-26 is dependent on one or another of claims 1 and 14 and therefore incorporate the above discussed patentably distinguishing limitations of claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, for the reasons given above and for the further reason that the specific structures and methods defined by these dependent claims provide particular advantages, as can be appreciated from the specification, as well as additional novelty, it is submitted that dependent claims 2-13 and 15-26 are allowable.

Further consideration by the Examiner and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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